

#121
11/8/07

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS FOR BARTON SPRINGS REDEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

Mayor and Councilmembers,

We are writing you today to support Item #121 on this week's City Council agenda. This item, if approved, would allow the redevelopment and retrofit of development that was built prior to the Save Our Springs (SOS) Ordinance or in some cases before any water quality ordinances at all. These older sites have been polluting the aquifer and Barton Springs for decades and this redevelopment and retrofit ordinance is one of the few ways we have to capture the large amounts of pollutants that are going into the aquifer and Barton Springs today and actually improve water quality.

By requiring either non-degradation controls or a balance of structural controls with low overall impervious cover, this ordinance is consistent with the spirit and function of the SOS Ordinance. It is also consistent with Envision Central Texas and the Regional Water Quality Planning recommendations, which call for clustered development in nodes where there is already population and infrastructure and the preservation of open space surrounding these population centers.

The structural water quality controls that will be put in place will reduce a wide variety of pollutants (such as hydrocarbons, metals and pesticides) to improve water quality, and the preservation of open space will prevent further degradation while keeping the overall impervious cover of the watershed as low as possible. The structural controls will also reduce water flow from these sites, preventing channel erosion, which is a major source of sediment in Barton Springs and Barton Creek.

This proposed ordinance was created through a lengthy volunteer Advisory Group process and hearings before the Environmental Board and Planning Commission. Staff has incorporated many changes that have been recommended by these bodies to improve the ordinance throughout this public process.

We urge you to approve Item #121 this Thursday

Thank you,

Dave Anderson

Jon Beall

Mike Blizzard

Jeb Boyd

David Butts

George Cofer

Glenn Gadbois

Mary Ann Neely

Susan Rieff

Chris Riley

Ted Siff